

The Columbus Commercial

VOL. XXIV.—NO. 39.

COLUMBUS, MISS., THURSDAY MORNING, DECEMBER 13, 1917.

Semi-Weekly, \$3.00 Per Year.

JERUSALEM IS NOW IN HANDS OF THE BRITONS

SURROUNDED ON ALL SIDES, TURKS SURRENDER "HOLY CITY."

IS NOW OCCUPIED

Historic City Had Been in the Hands of Mohammedans Since 1516.

London, Dec. 13.—Andrew Bonar Law, chancellor of the exchequer announced in the House of Commons Monday that Jerusalem after being surrounded on all sides by British troops, had surrendered.

The chancellor said British, French and Mohammedan representatives were on the way to Jerusalem to safeguard the holy place.

General Allenby reported that on Saturday he attacked the enemy's position south and west of Jerusalem, the chancellor said.

Welsh and home country troops, advancing from the direction of Bethlehem, drove back the enemy and, passing Jerusalem on the east, established themselves on the Jerusalem-Jericho road.

At the same time London infantry and dismounted yeomanry attacked the strong enemy positions west and northwest of Jerusalem and placed themselves astride the Jerusalem-Schochem road. The holy city, being thus isolated, surrendered to General Allenby.

The chancellor said General Allenby expected to enter Jerusalem today, accompanied by the officers of the French and British forces.

Mae Marsh in "Polly Of The Circus"

At Princess Today.

Margaret Mayo's famous story, that has been read by thousands, "Polly Of The Circus," is the attraction at the Princess for today. Mae Marsh, the star of this big production, needs no introduction, as she created a sensation in "The Birth of a Nation" and "Intolerance." This is a Goldwyn production, and much time and attention was given to the making of this their first picture.

Every detail of the famous story has been carefully worked out, and an entire circus was used in making the spectacular scenes.

"Polly of the Circus" is a story for "kids" from the age of 1 to 70 years young. It will be the most delightful hour and a half you have ever spent.

Matinee at 3:00 and 4:30.
Night at 7:30 and 9:00.
Admission: Children 15 cents, Adults 25 cents.

Mr. Frank Perkins left Tuesday for Memphis, where he goes to join the navy.

MR. POPE BEGINS PASTORATE HERE

NEW PASTOR OF FIRST METHODIST CHURCH DELIVERED INITIAL SERMON.

Rev. S. L. Pope, who at the annual session of the North Mississippi Methodist Conference recently held in Oxford was named to succeed Rev. W. L. Duren as pastor of the First Methodist church in this city, entered upon his new duties Sunday, and was greeted by interested congregations at both the morning and evening services.

Mr. Pope is by no means a stranger here, having served as pastor of the Central Methodist church in East Columbus nearly ten years ago. He is generally popular and is cordially welcomed both as a minister and as a citizen. His family has not yet arrived, and until his wife and children reach the city he will be the guest of Prof. Dabney Lipscomb, vice-president of the Mississippi Industrial Institute and College, at his home on College street.

13 NEGROES PAY DEATH PENALTY

LEADERS IN HOUSTON RIOT HANGED BY ORDER OF MILITARY COURT.

San Antonio, Texas, Dec. 12.—Without previous announcement or indication of any decision on the part of military authorities 13 negro soldiers, convicted, after a trial by court martial of murder and mutiny in connection with the riots at Houston, Texas, August 23, were hanged at Fort Sam Houston Tuesday.

The negroes hanged were among 63 tried by court martial at Fort Sam Houston recently of murder and mutiny and murder charges. Although the trial ended several days ago and the court martial board had been considering the evidence, no announcement of a verdict was made. Not until after the men had been hanged was any inkling of the intention of the government given out.

The men hanged were members of the Twenty-fourth infantry. They were accused of the slaying of seventeen persons during a riot of negro troops in Houston. Among those killed were Captain H. W. Mathews of the Illinois National Guard. Fourteen persons were wounded during the riot.

No announcement of the decision of the court martial board as to the other negroes tried has been made. The fate of 50 men remains to be decided.

The convicted men were members of a band of 150 troopers who marched through the streets of Houston and for 24 hours kept residents of the city in a state of terror. The men were led in their raid by Sergeant Vida Henry, who was killed by the citizens posse that finally drove the platoon into the negro section of the city.

Captain Mathews was one of the first to die. He was shot and bayoneted as he rode into the mob in an automobile, trying to quell the mutiny. Four policemen were killed, two white women and another soldier, among the seventeen. Two of the rioters were killed by a posse and several were wounded.

The riot started after a policeman had arrested a negro woman. He was shot by one of the negro soldiers as were several other policemen who came to arrest the murderer.

COAL BECOMES VERY SCARCE

LOCAL FUEL ADMINISTRATORS TAKE STEPS TO PROTECT CONSUMERS IN CITY.

The scarcity of coal, which has been felt in Columbus for some time past, has grown so rapidly that it has become acute, and the local fuel administration has adopted measures with the view of conserving the extremely limited supply now on hand. With this end in view the commission has ordered local dealers not to sell any coal to parties outside of the city limits. Heretofore many farmers have burned coal almost exclusively in their homes, but the commission is urging them to use wood, which is plentiful and the use of which will result in a material saving of the black diamonds.

The local fuel committee that has had the coal situation matter up with the fuel administration received a telegram yesterday evening stating that mines that supply Columbus will be required to ship enough coal for our immediate needs. Although the present coal famine has been relieved, this does not mean, however, that fuel is plentiful.

Meeting Postponed.

The Parent-Teacher Association of the Franklin Academy, which was to have had a meeting this evening has postponed the same until later on account of the bad weather and the public speaking. Mrs. Hughes, the State President, who was to have addressed the meeting will come to Columbus later on.

STATE'S NATAL DAY OBSERVED IN COLUMBUS

APPROPRIATE EXERCISES HELD AT COLLEGE AND FRANKLIN ACADEMY.

FINE PROGRAMS

Richard Harrison and John Lindamond Give History of School and Commonwealth

A recalcitrant heating apparatus combined with a local shortage of coal not only caused a suspension of work at Franklin Academy, the largest public school in Columbus, Monday but forced a postponement of the celebration of the centenary anniversary of Mississippi's entrance into the Union, which was planned for that day. "The heating apparatus has been working badly for some time, and the building became so cold Monday that it was thought best to dismiss the students. The school has a considerable supply of coal on hand, but Prof. Meadows, the superintendent, thought it best not to waste fuel in a vain attempt to heat the building.

The heating apparatus was repaired Monday afternoon, and on Tuesday morning exercises commemorating the one hundredth anniversary of Mississippi's statehood were held. A brief history of the state was given by Richard Harrison, a son of former Lieutenant-Governor James T. Harrison, and a nephew of the late Gen. Stephen D. Lee, a distinguished patriot and educator who during his lifetime served as commander-in-chief of the United Confederate Veterans, as commissioner of the National Park at Vicksburg, and as president of the Mississippi A. and M. College at Starkville, and a history of Franklin Academy, which is one of the oldest public schools in the state, was given by John Lindamond. Since the United States severed diplomatic relations with Germany between eighty-five and ninety former students of the academy have entered the service of Uncle Sam, and a feature of the exercises Tuesday was the enrollment of their names on the chapel wall. A blue star was placed opposite each name, and in the event that any young man is so unfortunate as to lose his life in battle the star opposite his name will be replaced by one made of gold.

Exercises commemorating the state's admission into the Union were held at the Mississippi Industrial Institute and College Monday morning, as originally planned. A brief history of the state was given by Hon. H. L. Whitfield, president of the institution, and there were other interesting features.

BILBO TO SPEAK HERE TONIGHT

GOVERNOR WILL DISCUSS NEW STATE TAX LAW AT THE COURT HOUSE.

Governor Theodore G. Bilbo will speak at the court house tonight, and citizens of Columbus and Lowndes county are extended a cordial invitation to hear him.

Governor Bilbo is delivering a series of speeches throughout the state in defense of the new tax law, and as this law has been relentlessly criticized here he naturally included Columbus in his itinerary. Notwithstanding the fact that the law has been severely condemned and that numerous petitions seeking its repeal are now in circulation, the governor contends that it is a salutary measure, and his speech tonight will doubtless be devoted largely to an effort to convert local citizens to that belief.

The address will begin at 7:30 o'clock, and local friends of Governor Bilbo are doing every thing in their power to secure a large audience for him.

LIQUOR FOR OWN USE VIOLATES LAW

DECISION OF SUPREME COURT MEANS MUCH FOR "BONE DRY" PROHIBITION.

Washington, Dec. 12.—With a decision upholding the Idaho prohibition law, the supreme court Monday gave an opinion which may be one of the most far-reaching victories for "bone dry" prohibition yet recorded.

It was held that a citizen has no constitutional right to possess liquors for his personal use if a state wishes to forbid it.

Justice Reynolds, who gave the court's opinion that a state "has power absolutely to prohibit manufacture, gift, purchase, sale or transportation of intoxicating liquors within its borders without violating the constitution."

"We further think," he added, "it clearly follows from our numerous decisions upholding prohibition legislation that the right to hold intoxicating liquors for those fundamental privileges of a citizen of the United States which no state may abridge. A contrary view would be incompatible with the undoubted power to purchase or transportation of such articles—the only feasible ways of getting them.

"An assured right of possession would necessarily imply some adequate method to obtain not subject to destruction at the will of the state."

MUST SHOW LIQUOR RECORD

Washington, Dec. 10.—Constitutionality of the North Carolina liquor law requiring railroads and express companies to keep for public inspection records showing liquor shipments received in the state, was upheld Monday by the supreme court.

The Southern Air Line Railway Company, which was convicted of violating the act, contended the law was unconstitutional, alleging it was an attempt by the state to regulate interstate commerce and conflicted with the interstate commerce act prohibiting the disclosing of information regarding consignees.

The state supreme court disputed the contentions, declaring the law was merely a police regulation necessitated to make effective powers given to the states by the government. Justice Van de Venter dissented.

CAPT. BANKS IS VICTIM OF STROKE

FORMER COLUMBIAN STRICKEN WITH PARALYSIS AT HIS HOME IN GULFPORT.

News that Capt. R. W. Banks had been stricken with paralysis at his home in Gulfport was received with keen regret in this city, where he resided for many years and where he has numerous friends and relatives.

Capt. Banks is now quite an old man, and the most active period of his life was spent here. He was for a number of years editor of the old Columbus Index and was for a long time prominent in local political activities, having taken an active part in the fight to free Lowndes county from the domination of negroes and carpetbaggers, who controlled elections here during the stressful period which followed the close of the civil war.

Capt. Banks wielded a facile pen, and for several months past has been engaged in writing a series of interesting biographies of famous Mississippians for the Memphis Commercial-Appeal.

Mr. W. R. Smith's many friends are glad to learn he is improving at the Columbus Hospital.

NOTICE.

It is requested that all Red Cross knitting yarn, whether in finished or unfinished work be returned to the Work Room by December 20.

NOVEL SCHEMES CONCEIVED FOR COMING DRIVE

FLAG TO BE RAISED AND CLOCK INSTALLED NEXT MONDAY.

COLLEGE TO HELP

Campaign in Behalf of Red Cross Society to be Vigorously Fought.

A flag raising and the installation of a huge clock to record subscriptions will be features of the Christmas drive for money and members for the American Red Cross Society which will be launched here next Monday.

The flag will be hoisted on the high pole at the intersection of Main and Market streets and will be presented on behalf of the Lowndes County Red Cross Chapter by Hon. P. W. Maer, editor of the Columbus Dispatch, being accepted for the city by Mayor D. S. McClanahan. The idea of erecting the clock was conceived by Mr. Jesse P. Woodward, who is to direct the campaign, and as new members are secured the hands of the time-piece will be moved forward until the goal is reached.

There is an auxiliary Red Cross Chapter at the Mississippi Industrial Institute and College, and the campaign for recruits is already in progress there. The chapter has 250 members and it is hoped to double the membership while the campaign is in progress. Hon. J. F. Frierson, one of Lowndes county's representatives in the legislature, will address the young ladies in behalf of the movement this morning.

Under the apportionment made by officials of the American Red Cross Society Lowndes county's quota is fixed at 2,763, but Mr. Woodward hopes to secure at least 3,000 new members.

Miss Carrie Boyd and Mr. Grady L. Kennedy, of Meridian, were quietly married at the home of the bride in East Columbus Monday afternoon at 2:30 o'clock, the ceremony having been performed by Rev. T. L. Holcomb, pastor of the First Baptist church. The bride is a pretty and attractive young lady. The groom is a well known young business man of Meridian. Shortly after the ceremony the happy couple left for Meridian, where they will reside.

RED CROSS LIKES COLLEGE DESIGN

ADOPTS CARD DESIGNED AT I. AND C. AS OFFICIAL GREETING.

Thousands of American soldiers now on French battlefields will receive Christmas greetings on cards designed at the Mississippi Industrial Institute and College in this city. Each card bears on its face a greeting in rhyme by Miss Annie Denman, a student of the college whom Nature robbed of her sight but made up for the deficiency by endowing her with rare mental gifts, and a decoration by Miss Bettie McArthur, an instructress in the art department.

Mrs. M. M. Green, secretary of the Lowndes County Red Cross Chapter, recently offered a prize for the most appropriate verse to go on cards to be used as Christmas greetings for American soldiers abroad, and Miss Denman won out over several competitors. The design has been officially adopted by the Gulf Coast division of the American Red Cross Society and thousands of the cards will be sent to members of Uncle Sam's expeditionary forces.

FIRST SNOW OF SEASON DESCENDS

MANTLE OF WHITE COVERS GROUND IN TERRITORY SURROUNDING COLUMBUS.

When Columbians awoke Tuesday morning they were very much surprised to find the ground covered by an ermine mantle, as the weather the previous night, while cold, had been clear and there was no indication of snow. The fleecy flakes began to fall about daylight and continued to descend for several hours, the snow having reached a total depth of a little more than an inch.

Suffering attendant upon the fall of snow was materially augmented by the local scarcity of coal. Many people are almost without fuel, and while local charitable organizations are doing everything in their power to supply either coal or wood to the needy both these commodities are scarce and it is difficult to obtain all that is required.

The snow also interfered with the street car traffic. Many cars stalled and the motormen found it impossible to move them. Most of the trouble was on the Military road line. Some of the grades on this line are very steep and the track was so slick that great difficulty was encountered in forcing the cars to climb the hill.

Shortly before noon a drizzling rain began to descend and the snow was converted into slush. The mercury did not descend, however, and as night approached the snow was turned into ice.

DIRECTORS NAME HARDY AS NEW VICE-PRESIDENT

At a meeting of the directors of the Merchants' and Farmers' Bank which was held Monday morning Mr. R. B. Hardy was elected vice-president to fill the vacancy caused by the recent death of Mr. T. W. Hardy, and the vacancy in the directorate was filled by the election of Mr. Thomas Doe, a prominent local merchant, to membership on the board.

Mr. Hardy is one of the most prominent and prosperous planters of the prairie section west of Columbus and will make a most efficient vice-president.

Mrs. Josie Hardeman, of Marks, Miss., has been spending the past several days here the guest of Mr. and Mrs. J. M. Jemison, at their home on North Third avenue.

COLLEGE GIRLS HEAR SPEAKERS

MRS. GREEN, MISS McWILLIAMS AND MISS BYRD MAKE INTERESTING TALKS.

Members of the Red Cross chapter at the Mississippi Industrial Institute and College recently had the pleasure of listening to an inspiring address by Mrs. M. M. Green, secretary of the Lowndes county chapter. Mrs. Green, a short time ago, visited New Orleans, the headquarters of the southeast division of the American Red Cross Society, and described graphically what she saw there. She stated that all garments, even those with minor defects, were being sent to the soldiers, and this statement was very encouraging to some of the young ladies at the college who have occasionally "dropped a stitch" while engaged in knitting.

Other interesting speakers at the college have been Misses Bonnie Jean Byrd and Minnie Drye McWilliams, who represented the student body of the institution at the annual meeting of the Student Government Association for College Women recently held at Syracuse, N. Y. This organization is enthusiastically supporting war activities, having donated \$250 to the Student Friendship War Fund.

Congregational Meeting Sunday.

There will be a Congregational meeting at the First Presbyterian Church Sunday morning at 11 o'clock. The purpose of the meeting will be to call a pastor.

OVER A SCORE ARE INJURED IN M. & O. WRECK

DEFECTIVE RAIL CAUSES PASSENGER TRAIN TO LEAVE THE TRACK.

NO LIVES ARE LOST

Accident Occurred Near Penn Station Early On Tuesday Morning.

More than a score of passengers were painfully injured and traffic was blocked for several hours when northbound fast mail train, No. 4, on the Mobile and Ohio railroad, was wrecked at Penn Station at an early hour Tuesday morning.

N. Hardwick, an aged citizen of Corinth, seems to have been more seriously hurt than any of the other passengers, having had three of his ribs broken, and having been more or less painfully bruised about the face and head. R. E. Holmes, of Brooksville, Miss., was also rather seriously hurt, having been hit about the face. A list of others who sustained painful, though not serious injuries follows: Ben Bottom, Hickman, Ky.; R. J. Little, Memphis; James McManus, Hickman, Ky.; Claud Reed, Hickman, Ky.; H. J. Keene, Superior, Wis. The above named passengers are all white. Several negroes were also injured, the most serious wound having been received by W. MacMay, of Springfield, Mass., who had his face badly lacerated.

The wreck resulted from a broken rail. It seems that the engine and tender passed over the defective track alright; but the baggage car, smoker, negro coach, the two day coaches and sleeper all left the rails. At the point where the wreck took place there is a high embankment, and the two day coaches went off this embankment, having turned on their sides as they fell. The mail car and sleeper partially turned over, but did not entirely leave the track.

The engineer in charge of the train ran his locomotive to Artesia where surgical aid was secured. Dr. D. R. Lamb and other Artesia physicians went to the scene of the wreck and rendered all assistance in their power.

Mr. Louis D. Cummings, a member of machine gun company, Eight Infantry, of the U. S. Regulars, is spending ten days in the city with his parents, Judge and Mrs. T. M. Cummings. Mr. Cummings has been spending the past three years on the Philippine Islands, but is now stationed at Camp Fremont, near San Francisco. He expects to leave soon for France.

Cosmopolitan, \$1.50 a year. Phone 184 or 222. Jack Senter.

CIVIC LEAGUE WILL HEAR PROF. McKAY

PROMINENT MISSISSIPPIAN WILL DELIVER ADDRESS HERE FRIDAY.

The Civic League will hold its regular meeting next Friday afternoon at the Chamber of Commerce at 2:30 o'clock. Professor A. B. McKay, of the Department of Horticulture of the A. and M. College will speak on "City Beautifying." Professor McKay is an expert in his line, and his services are in constant demand over the state for lectures and practical assistance by those interested in civic improvement.

The league is particularly eager to have attractive grounds for the various schools of the city and Mr. McKay will, with Mayor McClanahan's permission, visit these and other places designated and offer suggestions as to planting and placing of shrubbery, trees, etc.

Everybody interested is urged to hear Professor McKay.